



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Thomas W. Stone
Application Serial No.: 10/700,828
Filed: November 4, 2003
For: WAVELENGTH SELECTIVE SWITCHING AND/OR ROUTING SYSTEM

Examiner: Agustin Bello
Group Art Unit: 2633
Confirm. No.: 6251

To: Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.131

Sir:


I, Orlando Lopez, declare that:

1. I am the patent agent/attorney who prepared the above-referenced patent application.
2. Prior to May 29, 2003, the assignee, Agilent Technologies, Inc., contacted the law firm of Perkins Smith & Cohen LLP and requested them to file a patent application on the combined Invention Disclosure Nos. 10020907 and 10020912 (copies attached with dates deleted).
3. At least three draft patent applications were generated by me for review and revision (comments) by the inventor, Thomas W. Stone, just prior to May 29, 2003 to November 4, 2003, at which date the application was filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.
4. Each draft patent application improved upon the prior draft until the inventor, Thomas W. Stone, approved the final draft for filing as a patent application.

I even further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United

Application No. 10/700,828
Attorney Docket No. 10020907-1
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States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.



Orlando Lopez

12/1/2005

Date



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INVENTION DISCLOSURE

PAGE ONE OF 9

PDNO 10220907 DATE RCVD 01

ATTORNEY: GPJ

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Descriptive Title of Invention:

Wavelength Selective Cross-Connect Based On Switchable Gratings

Name of Project: Pinot

Product Name or Number: N/A

Was a description of the invention published, or are you planning to publish? If so, the date(s) and publication(s):
Never Published—Included in Internal Agilent Power-Point Presentation

Was a product including the invention announced, offered for sale, sold, or is such activity proposed? If so, the date(s) and location(s):
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No Government Support.

Description of Invention: Please preserve all records of the invention and attach additional pages for the following. Each additional page should be signed and dated by the inventor(s) and witness(es). See Attached.

- A. Prior solutions and their disadvantages (if available, attach copies of product literature, technical articles, patents, etc.).
- B. Problems solved by the invention.
- C. Advantages of the invention over what has been done before.
- D. Description of the construction and operation of the invention (include appropriate schematic, block, & timing diagrams; drawings; samples; graphs; flowcharts; computer listings; test results; etc.)

Signature of Inventor(s): I (we) hereby submit this disclosure on this date: [01/01/01].

918323 Thomas W. Stone

Employee No. Name

Signature

895-0234

Telnet Mailstop

Pinot (Bethlehem, PA)

Entity & Lab Name

Employee No. Name

Signature

Telnet Mailstop

Entity & Lab Name

Employee No. Name

Signature

Telnet Mailstop

Entity & Lab Name

Employee No. Name

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Telnet Mailstop

Entity & Lab Name

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Signature of Witness(es): (Please try to obtain the signature of the person(s) to whom invention was first disclosed.)

The invention was first explained to, and understood by, me (us) on this date: | |

Full Name Signature Date of Signature

Michelle M. Stone

Michelle M. Stone

7/2/00

Full Name Signature Date of Signature

Thomas A. Mitchell

Thomas A. Mitchell

7/2/00

Inventor & Home Address Information: (If more than four inventors, include addl. information on a copy of this form & attach to this document)

Inventor's Full Name
Thomas William Stone

Street
1845 Mallard Court

City State Zip
Hellerstown PA 18055

Do you have a Residential P.O. Address? P.O. BOX City State Zip
(above)

Greeted as (nickname, middle name, etc.) Citizenship
Tom USA

Inventor's Full Name

Street

City State Zip

Do you have a Residential P.O. Address? P.O. BOX City State Zip

Greeted as (nickname, middle name, etc.) Citizenship

Inventor's Full Name

Street

City State Zip

Do you have a Residential P.O. Address? P.O. BOX City State Zip

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A. PRIOR SOLUTIONS AND THEIR DISADVANTAGES

Other wavelength selectable cross connects are typically slower, more expensive, exhibit higher insertion loss, lower crosstalk suppression, and in some cases may be inferior with respect to size, WDL, and PDL.

B. PROBLEMS SOLVED BY THE INVENTION

The wavelength selectable cross connects of this invention exhibit higher speed (tens or hundreds of microseconds), much lower insertion loss, higher crosstalk suppression (isolation), and may be more compact than other approaches. In addition, there is a potential for greatly reduced cost with this current device family. Wavelength selectable cross connects are important optical telecom devices.

C. ADVANTAGES OF THE INVENTION OVER WHAT HAS BEEN DONE BEFORE

The wavelength selectable cross connects of this invention exhibit higher speed (tens or hundreds of microseconds), much lower insertion loss, higher crosstalk suppression (isolation), and may be more compact than other approaches. In addition, there is a potential for greatly reduced cost with this current device family.

D. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE INVENTION

A canonical $1 \times N$ wavelength selectable cross connect of the present invention is shown in Figure 1. Here the input is separated into its m spectral WDM component signals (longer wavelengths deviated through larger displacements) using a twin grating disperser in which the gratings are typically parallel and of the same spatial frequency. The resolved WDM channels are then passed through an array of m $1 \times N$ switches as shown. This allows for each of the m input WDM channels to be independently routed to any of N output columns. The final grating pair combiner is identical to the input grating pair except that the final pair is wider (physically larger



gratings, but still just two gratings). This grating pair combines any wavelength channels present in a given column into an array of N multiplexed outputs as shown in Figure 1. In such a fashion, each of m wavelength signals in the input can be independently routed to any of N output ports or fibers.

Pinot Wavelength Selectable $1 \times n$ Cross Connect (Generic Configuration)

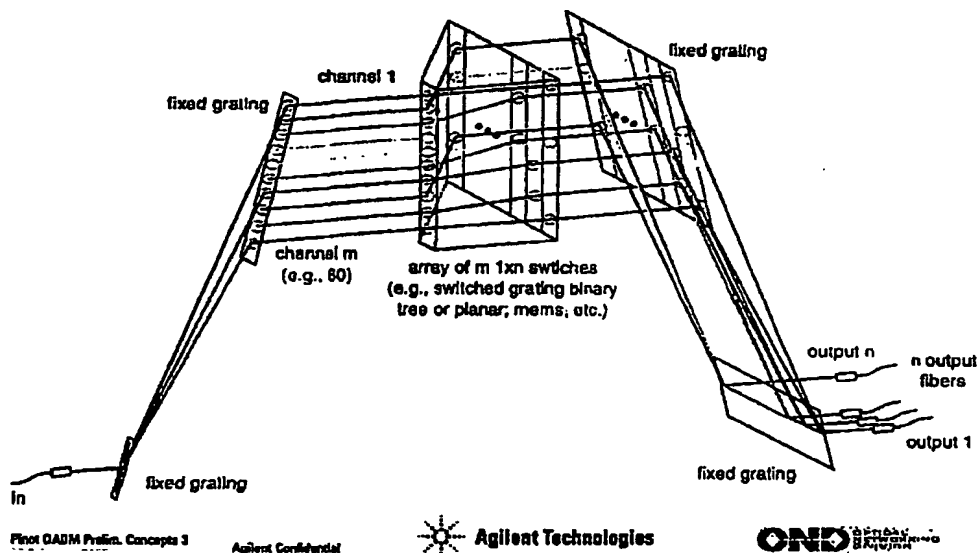


Figure 1.

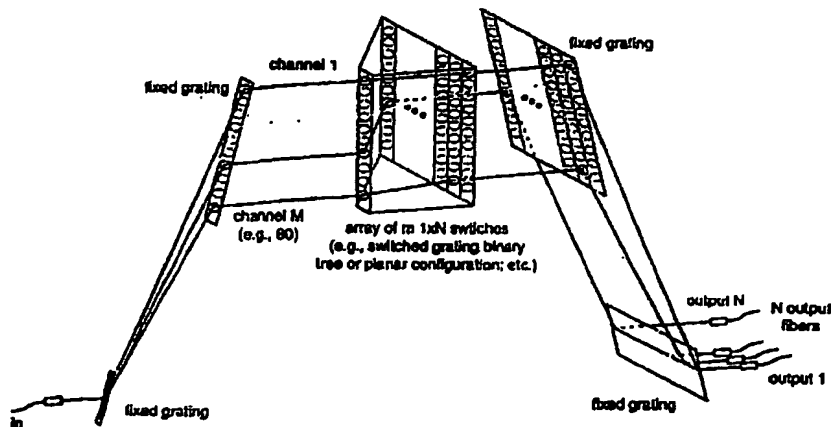
The less cluttered case of illustrating only 4 of the m channels being switched is shown in Figure 2.



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Pinot Wavelength Selective 1xn Cross Connect (Generic Configuration)



Pinot Wavelength Selective 1xn Cross Connect

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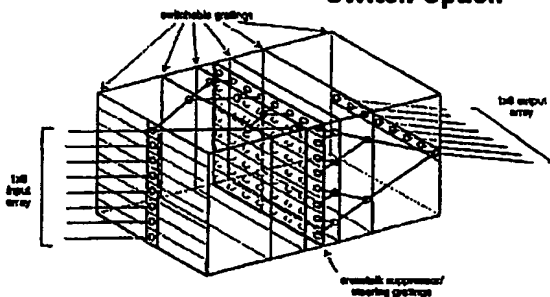
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Figure 2.

An ideal candidate for the array of m $1 \times N$ switches for the present invention is the front half of the $M \times N$ cross connect as described in existing Agilent patents and shown in Figure 3.

Pinot Wavelength Selectable 1xN Cross Connect Switch Option



- Front half of 8×8 is array of $1 \times N$ Switches

Pinot Wavelength Selectable 1xN Cross Connect

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Figure 3.



This array of m $1 \times N$ switches has very low insertion loss and is compact for the typical dimensions of wavelength selective cross-connect likely to be used in telecom applications. Further it is relatively inexpensive since only a small number of stripe-pixelated gratings need be fabricated for the array (e.g., 3 gratings for an array of 80 1×8 switches).

A more compact alternative for the array of m $1 \times N$ switches is shown in Figure 4. Here N switchable gratings are stripe pixelated (a cross section of 1 of m stripe pixel layers shown in Figure 4) and form the array of m $1 \times N$ switches. The details of this switch array follow from the planar crossbar invention previously disclosed. The transmission-grating version is shown, and an analogous switched holographic mirror version has the advantage of near zero WDL when fiber coupled and is also described in the planar crossbar invention.

Pinot Wavelength Selectable $1 \times N$ Cross Connect Switch Option

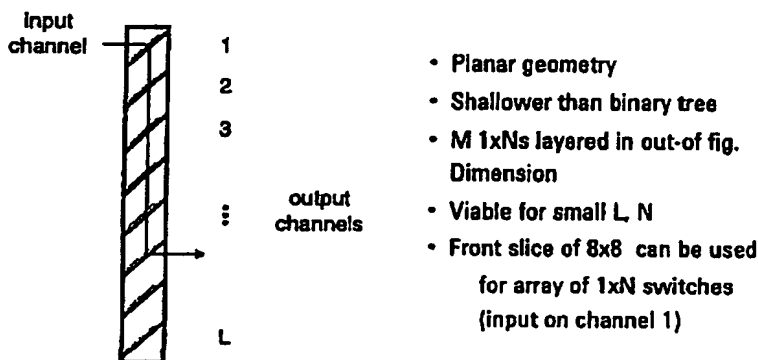


Figure 4.



provide for the general wavelength selective $L \times N$ cross connect function. Accordingly any wavelength in any of the input fibers can be routed to any of the output fibers. Many different technologies can be used for the array of M $L \times N$ switches. Such based on switchable gratings are desirable due to their low insertion loss and high speed. One such switch array is an array of planar cross connects as described in an earlier disclosure and shown in Figure 6. The switch of Figure 6 would be a single layer of a stack, shown in cross-section from above. This device as shown would be inserted in the configuration of Figure 5 and the resulting configuration would then be as shown but deviated through 90 degrees at the switch. The switchable mirror version of the planar crossbar would be preferable since there would be no residual angular or lateral dispersion from the switch. Similarly the transmission switch array of Figure 7 could be used, and would result in an offset. The advantage of the switch of Figure 7 is that it is wavelength compensated for angular dispersion even with transmission gratings, although there is residual lateral dispersion. The lateral dispersion of the switch array of Figure 7 is readily reduced by replacing the single large final compensation grating with the extension of the lower edge gratings to an $L+1$ level, and using a mirror array to redirect the compensated beams downward again.

Pinot Wavelength Selectable $1 \times N$ Cross Connect Switch Option

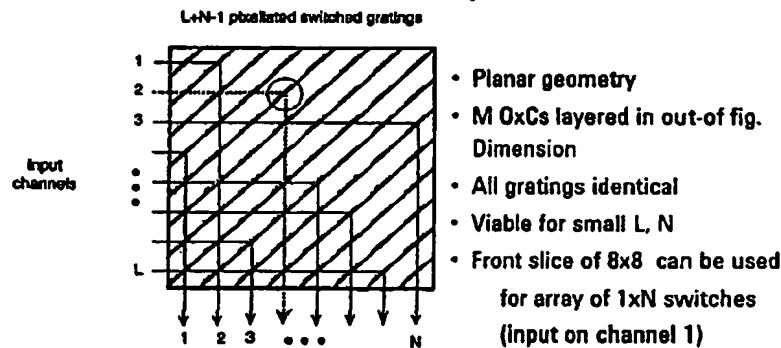


Figure 6.

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918323 Thomas W. Stone**895-0234****Pinot (Bethlehem, PA)**

Employee No.

Name

Signature

Telnat

Mailstop

Entity & Lab Name

Employee No.

Name

Signature

Telnat

Mailstop

Entity & Lab Name

Employee No.

Name

Signature

Telnat

Mailstop

Entity & Lab Name

Employee No.

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895-0234

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Employee No.

Name

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Telnet

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Entity & Lab Name

Employee No.

Name

Signature

Telnet

Mailstop

Entity & Lab Name

Employee No.

Name

Signature

Telnet

Mailstop

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Full Name	Signature	Date of Signature
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Full Name	Signature	Date of Signature
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Inventor & Home Address Information: *(If more than four inventors, include addl. information on a copy of this form & attach to this document)*

Inventor's Full Name
Thomas William Stone

Street
1845 Mallard Court

City	State	Zip
Hellertown	PA	18055

Do you have a Residential P.O. Address? P.O. BOX (above)	City	State	Zip
----------------------------------------------------------	------	-------	-----

Greeted as (nickname, middle name, etc.)	Citizenship
Tom	USA

Inventor's Full Name

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City	State	Zip
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A. PRIOR SOLUTIONS AND THEIR DISADVANTAGES

The disperser-combiner switched grating devices can require significant complexity to fit in a small product footprint. In addition, the WDL and other specs can be large without added system complexity.

B. PROBLEMS SOLVED BY THE INVENTION

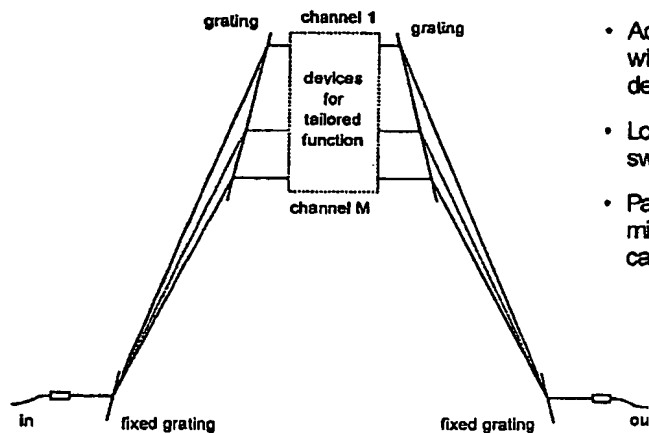
The present invention can greatly reduce the size of switched grating based tunable filters, interleavers, band channelizers, and wavelength selectable cross connects. Further, there is potential for reducing the CD of these systems with the present invention.

C. ADVANTAGES OF THE INVENTION OVER WHAT HAS BEEN DONE BEFORE

The present invention can greatly reduce the size of switched grating based tunable filters, interleavers, band channelizers, and wavelength selectable cross connects. Part of the size reduction is due to the efficient manner in which the different wavelength channels are resolved, and the relatively uniform spacing that can result. Further, there is potential for reducing the CD of these systems with the present invention.

D. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE INVENTION

Canonical Disperser/ Combiner (CDC)
(Segmentable Platform)



- Adaptable to many functions with insertion of cascaded devices
- Low Insertion loss fixed (non-switchable) gratings
- Parallel spectrally-dispersed micro-optic beams allow cascading of devices

Final Prelim Concepts 8
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Figure 1.



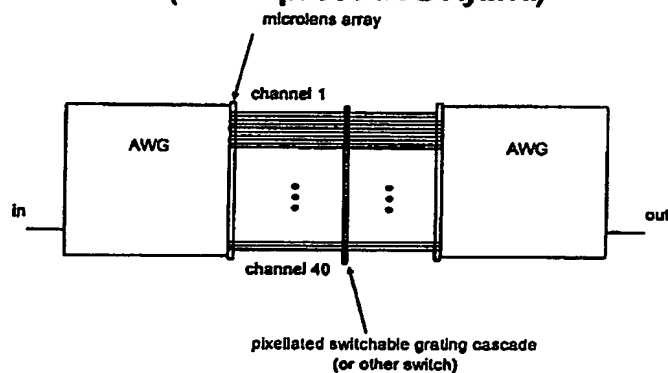
In the canonical disperser/combiner shown in Figure 1, grating pairs are used first to disperse the WDM channels spatially, and then to recombine them. In the present invention, the grating pairs are each substituted with either single Array Waveguide Gratings (AWGs) or arrays of AWGs.

The switchable filter configuration in Figure 2 illustrates the present invention. In this tunable filter system, the pixellated switched grating (or cascade of switched gratings for enhanced contrast) are used as before, but in place of the grating pair dispersers and combiners, Array Waveguide Gratings (AWGs) are used. This has the advantage of potentially reducing the size and CD of the system, but this advantage comes at possibly an increased system cost (two AWGs); and the insertion loss, CD, WDL, etc. performance of the AWGs are introduced into the overall tunable filter performance. AWG cost and performance are rapidly improving, and so this is potentially an excellent trade-off in retaining the low insertion loss and high speed of switched grating systems and the compactness of the AWG dispersion.

In the configuration of Figure 2, microlens arrays are used to transform the output of the AWGs into free space beams and back into waveguides again. Anamorphic optics may be used optionally to transform the waveguide outputs of the AWGs into circular beams.



Pinot Switchable Filter (Free-Space AWG Hybrid)



- Microlens array converts waveguide channels to free-space beams
- Possible issues with insertion loss, filter shape, cost, CD, ...

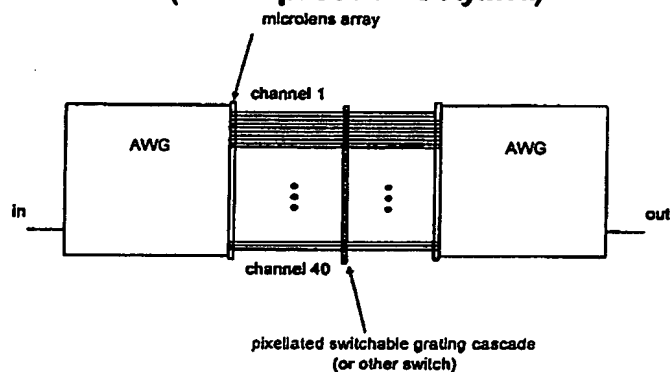


Figure 2.

In the prior example, each grating pair was replaced with a single AWG. The 1xN wavelength selectable cross connect of the accompanying disclosure can also benefit from the AWG substitution, and in this case the first grating pair in figure 3 is replaced by a single AWG as in Figure 2, and the second (wide) grating pair is replaced with an array of N AWGs.



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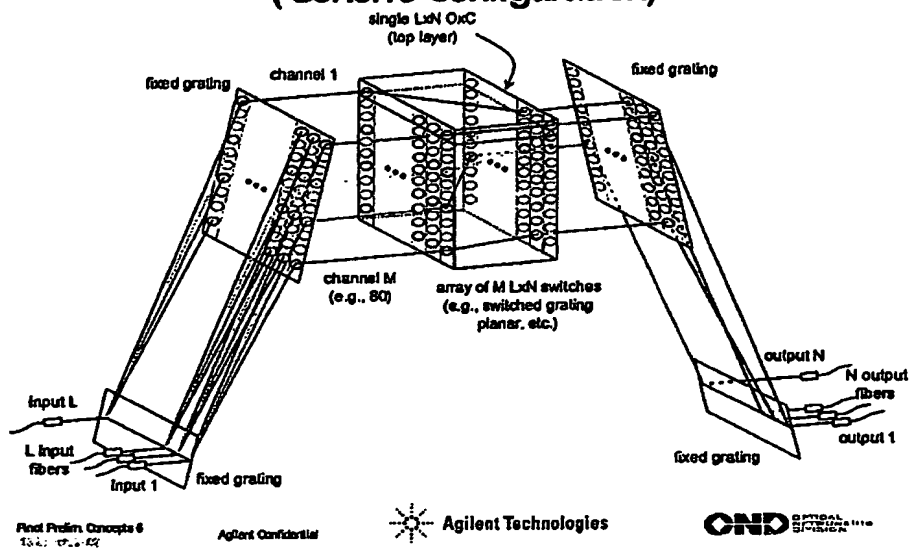


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Pinot Wavelength Selective LxN Cross Connect (Generic Configuration)



Pinot Prelim. Concepts 6
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Figure 4.